

This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-23 (Canceled).

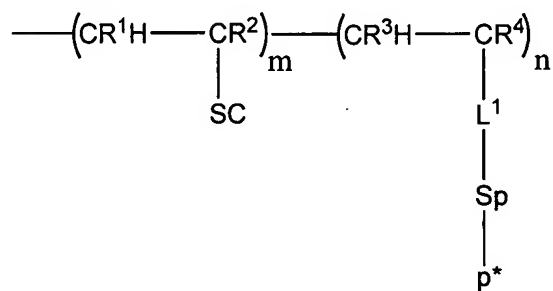
24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26-30. (Canceled).

31-37 (Canceled).

38. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the formula:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a poly(alkylene oxide) side chain containing about 4-20 alkylene oxide units;

L¹ is selected from ~~O-(CO)-, O-(CO)-O-, (CO)-NH-, O-(CO)-NH-, S-S-, S-(CO)-, and (CO)-S-~~; ~O-(CO)-, ~O-(CO)-O-, ~(CO)-NH-, ~O-(CO)-NH-, ~S-S-, ~S-(CO)-, and ~(CO)-S-, wherein ~ represents the bond through which L¹ attaches to the polymer backbone;

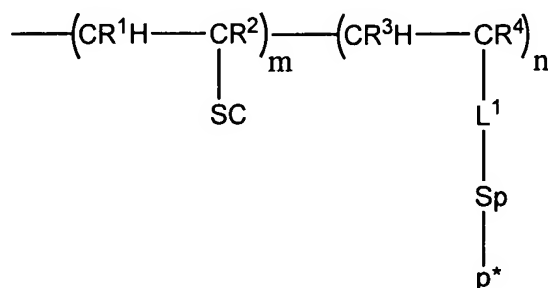
Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and
 P* is a polar moiety.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Original) The polymer of claim 38, where m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000, and the polymer is prepared by polymerization of a composition consisting essentially of a hydrophilic monomer and an acrylic acid monomer esterified with a hydrophilic side chain.

41-90 (Canceled).

91. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the formula:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 0 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a hydrophilic side chain;

L¹ is selected from ~~O-(CO)-, O-(CO)-O-, (CO)-NH-, O-(CO)-NH-, S-S-, S-(CO)-, and (CO)-S-;~~ ~O-(CO)-, ~O-(CO)-O-, ~(CO)-NH-, ~O-(CO)-NH-, ~S-S-, ~S-(CO)-, and ~(CO)-S-, wherein ~ represents the bond through which L¹ attaches to the polymer backbone;

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and

P* is a polar moiety.

92. (Canceled).